

Claim 12, line 5, change "material" to
--physical--.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

In the parent application, the disclosure was objected to for the reasons noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant offers the following comments in response to the Examiner's observations. The sensitivity level of pixels can be changed by changing a gain of a signal corresponding to each pixel. For example, when an image pickup signal is read out from the image pickup element in which color filters (Cy, Mg, and Ye) are arranged, and processed by a camera signal processing device, the sensitivity of each color can be changed by changing the gain of the image pickup signal corresponding to each color. Applicant believes that the person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the specification at page 26, lines 17-21. Should the Examiner have any additional suggestions or concerns, he is respectfully encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (202) 347-8100.

In the parent application, the pending claims were rejected as being unpatentable over patents to Toda, Kley and Toda. The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Day for the detailed discussion of the art as applied to the claims. Applicant respectfully traversed all art rejections.

Each of the independent claims 1 and 9 recites a video camera having a physical element arranged in the optical system for controlling a physical characteristic of the physical element to affect a light transmission factor and a light transmission amount. Structure is provided for correcting (or adjusting) at least a light transmission factor of the physical element. As described with respect to the preferred embodiments, an iris is a physical element the characteristics of which are changed.

Specifically, Claim 1 recites that change of the spectrum for light of each wavelength (which is caused by the physical characteristics of the physical element itself, which results in turn from changes of light transmission factor and light transmission amount of the physical element) is corrected. This feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Toda merely adjusts white balance according to exposure change. This includes a liquid crystal iris whose aperture can be changed by changing voltage applied to an electrode of the iris, and corrects spectral

transmitivity variation caused by change of the aperture, by a white balance correcting circuit. However, Toda is not seen to disclose or suggest the salient claimed features of the present invention as discussed above.

Independent claim 9 recites that exposure control of a camera is performed according to a combination of control of the light transmission factor and the light transmission amount of the physical element and control of accumulation time and sensitivity of the image pickup means. This feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Tani merely controls the aperture of the diaphragm based on an output of a conventional photometry circuit. Tani fails to disclose or suggest an iris using a physical element.

Accordingly, the salient claimed features of independent claims 1 and 9 (and thus their dependent claims) are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 347-8100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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